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FCC

RE: Bill for the "no record" flag

December 5, 2002

To the FCC:

I am extremely disgruntled and disgusted with your organization and your petty bullying tactics.

The "no record" flag proposal is merely another effort to destroy the rights of rural Americans' rights to the access of television. Your organization has repeatedly demonstrated your lack of respect and equality towards this part of the population over the past twenty years, so perhaps this means nothing to you.

1) You listened to Cable companies who refused to service rural and suburban communities when said communities turned to the original satellites, claiming satellites were hurting their business. No, they weren't. Satellites were servicing areas that cable companies refused to. You can't lose customers you didn't have and obviously didn't want in the first place. But you passed the regulations so everyone could scramble their systems.

2) The "new" satellite companies, whom you've been fighting with over time and again, like the current fight over the possible monopolization of Dish Network and Direct TV, are no different than cable companies in their own right. They are overpriced, charging for the receiver(s) and a monthly service fee that is often more expensive than a damn cable company. Why? Because your organization forced them to make changes in their services, which in turn made them decide to raise rates to a point where rural families - the MAJORITY of whom are on fixed incomes - simply cannot afford the service any more.

And now, you want to ban the right to record tv shows. It's not enough that both your organization and the corporations of this country have already stripped the rural populations of America their rights to proper entertainment, news, and educational programming with your ill-thought, ill-conceived practices. Maybe it hasn't occurred to you, but many people record various TV shows and mail them, free of charge, to those in areas who simply cannot get the programming. Does it matter that the cable / satellite companies aren't getting money out of this? No, because it's nobody's fault but their own that they refuse to service these people properly.

If it weren't for their own greed and manipulative practices that have hindered their own business, ratings and economics for all of them would improve. But since they refuse to properly service the areas, then the American people have the right to receive the programming by whatever means available to them. If the producers of these programs want money for their shows, then instead of creating problems of this nature, they should be intelligent enough to produce affordable collections for people to purchase (as opposed to \$30 DVDs for 2 episodes out of 24 episodes comprising a season). Until then, they should just butt out of the American People's business.

The fact is, the FCC has allowed America to become disconnected and disconcerted from itself. People should not have to move to population centers in order to be considered acknowledgeable by their government or by corporations. It is such ineptitude that hinders us as a country and creates a weakness in our nation's society. Instead of thinking solely for the benefits of monolithic corporations who are already preying upon the American People's economic stability, how about you people show some intelligence, and start serving the People, for once?

Better yet, why don't you allow the People to tell you what they truly want? When it comes to television, what they WANT is the old satellite services, where you could pick up whatever was in the skies, as long as you had a means to move your receiver from point to point. And, if that's not acceptable, then allow someone to create a system that allows anyone, anywhere, to receive whatever programming they want to see, when they want to see it, after the product's release date, simply by pressing the remote control on their system for a certain code number related to that program, which would be archived. The satellite would relay that command to a host website, upload the program (because as you well know by now, there is now satellite internet services), and relay it back to your receiver. No more paying for networks with crappy programming - the American People would simply be able to order what shows they want to watch. Period. And make the damn thing affordable - no more than \$40 a month, sans perhaps Live Pay-Per-View programming, which could be additional.

This would truly be beneficial, because your so-called Nielsen Ratings would then truly represent what the American People are watching - they'd be ordering what they want to see, and the totals of those orders in a given time period would properly represent the interests of the viewers. It could prove to networks that cancel series in their early inception for lack of viewers caused by poor scheduling that there is a viable audience for the programming, because viewers could order the show after its initial air time.

If you want to THAT, then work with the satellite companies to provide that. Otherwise, leave the American People alone.

Sincerely,

Carolyn K. Reinke